



Attorney Docket: 951/49710
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

~~Applicant:~~ ANDREAS SCHUHBAECK
~~Serial No.:~~ 09/837,610 Group Art Unit: 2839
~~Filed:~~ APRIL 19, 2001 Examiner: NGUYEN, Khiem M.
~~Title:~~ ARRANGEMENT OF SEVERAL FERRULES FOR OPTICAL
WAVE GUIDES AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING
BELT OF PLASTIC FERRULES

#9/Election
7-21-03
7-31-03

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 24, 2003

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JUL 25 2003
TECHNICAL CENTER 2800

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed July 1, 2003, Applicant provisionally elects with traverse claims 1-12 (Group I) for further prosecution.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested on the grounds that the reasons for distinctness are improper. The reason for distinctness between Groups I and II is given that two or more ferrules can be injection molded simultaneously to form a section of belt. However, independent claim 1 of Group I and claim 13 of Group II, as claimed, do not rule out such a process. In particular, claim 13 encompasses this process. Therefore, the reason for distinctness given for the process is not materially different from the process of Group II.

Likewise, the reason for distinctness between Group I and III are also improper. The reasons for distinctness given in the Office Action are that the process of coupling ferrules to an optical wave guide or to each other to form a

belt can be practiced on another product besides ferrules. The difference given is that the process can be practiced on fiber connector modules. However, claim 15 drawn to the method of coupling ferrules, requires that an arrangement of ferrules is provided. Therefore, this process cannot be practiced on fiber connector modules as alleged in the Office Action. Therefore, a proper reason for distinctness between Groups I and III has not been given. Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #951/49710).

Respectfully submitted,



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